

a first strip of [sealing] a material that is adapted for sealing and formed in a loop and having an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one [inner] spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip wherein remaining spaces therebetween are substantially void.

C1
56. The gasket of claim 55, wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

C2
59. The gasket of claim 55, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner [peripheries] periphery of [both] said first strip [and said second strip], and at least one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said [second] first strip, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void.

C3
66. The gasket of claim 60, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner [peripheries] periphery of [both] said first strip [and said second strip], and at least one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said [second] first strip, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void.

C4 70. The gasket of claim 67, wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

Sub E67 C5 73. The gasket of claim 67, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner [peripheries] periphery of [both] said first strip [and said second strip], and at least one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said [second] first strip, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void.

C6 79. The gasket of claim 76, wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

Sub E67 C7 82. The gasket of claim 76, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner [peripheries] periphery of [both] said first strip [and said second strip], and at least one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said [second] first strip, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void.

Sub E8 C8 85. A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

C9 a first strip of a [sealing] material adapted for sealing and formed in a loop and having an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an outer periphery and inner periphery greater than said outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip wherein remaining spaces therebetween are substantially void, and wherein said outer periphery of said first strip is substantially circular and said outer periphery of said second strip is substantially square.

88. A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, each flange having an inner periphery and an outer periphery, comprising a single ring of sealing material having an outer periphery that is substantially congruent with the outer periphery of at least one of the flanges and including a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

91. A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, each flange having an inner periphery and an outer periphery, comprising:

a first strip of a [sealing] material adapted for sealing and formed in a loop, said first strip having an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said second strip having an outer periphery and an inner periphery greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip at a predetermined location on the inner periphery of said second strip, wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a

concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge, said notch being disposed proximate said predetermined location.

92. A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, each flange having an inner periphery and an outer periphery, comprising:

a first strip of a [sealing] material adapted for sealing and formed in a loop, said first strip having an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said second strip having an outer periphery and an inner periphery greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge, and wherein the outer periphery of said second strip also includes, opposite said notch, a corresponding convexity adapted for substantially maintaining the strength of said second strip at the location of said notch.--

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 15, 2000. Claims 59, 66, 73 and 82 have been amended responsive to the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC §112, and to remove a redundancy therein. Claims 55, 85, 91 and 92 have been amended to clarify that the claimed sealing material is "a material adapted for sealing" and claim 55 has also been amended to correct